

Committee Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

28 July 2023

Dear Secretary

### **Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Framework**

Family Advocacy welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights' Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Framework.

We are not for profit disability advocacy organisation that works across New South Wales (NSW) to advance and protect the rights and interests of people with developmental disability, were founded by families 30 years ago who had a strong vision that their family member with a disability would have a meaningful inclusive life to be enjoyed by experiencing the same opportunities and living conditions as the majority of Australians. This means being included in education, employment, and community with the right to live safely, with dignity, and free from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Family Advocacy strongly supports the introduction of a federal Human Rights Act. We endorse all of the recommendations made by [All Means All](#) and [People with Disability Australia](#) in their submissions to this Inquiry.

We also endorse the recommendations made by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) in its submission to this Inquiry (AHRC Submission), with the exception of the recommendation in its 'Free and Equal: A Human Rights Act for Australia' position paper to include only a general right to education with the requirement that it be interpreted in light of Article 24. In our view this proposal is insufficient to guarantee the right of people with disability to **inclusive education** which **should be explicitly incorporated into a national Human Rights Act**.

We agree with the view of the Australian Human Rights Commission that the next step towards a federal Human Rights Act is to develop a draft exposure bill based on the Australian Human Rights Commission's proposed model.

Yours Sincerely



Cecile Sullivan Elder  
Executive Officer



Leanne Varga  
Systemic Advocate and Campaigns Manager